

## Democrat and Chronicle

March 25, 2015

Mr. Robert Freeman  
NYS Committee on Open Government  
Department of State  
One Commerce Plaza  
99 Washington Avenue, Suite 650  
Albany, New York 12231

Mr. Freeman:

I overheard one of our reporters, Sarah Taddeo, on the phone with you this afternoon. She was a little upset after she got off the phone, so I asked her what was the matter. She said you had been helpful, as you usually are, but then you began making personal comments about her age and your age and the difference, including telling her she was "a child." She also said you told her she looked "pretty but young" in her LinkedIn headshot. She told you she didn't appreciate the comments, and I hope that got through. Just in case it didn't, I'm adding my voice of disappointment.

Bob, I think the world of the work you do and have done. You have helped me and other journalists, here and around the state, more times than I can count.

But there are certain lines I would prefer our sources, helpful or otherwise, not cross with our reporters. Comments such as those above about a reporter's age and looks are among them. I trust we won't have to discuss a similar misadventure again.

Sincerely,



Dick Moss  
News Director

copies: Karen Magnuson  
Sarah Taddeo  
Cynthia Benjamin

